

Morse, Gruening Ask Congress Check of CIA

Senator Morse, Democrat of Oregon, demanded congressional checks on operations of the Central Intelligence Agency in a speech yesterday denouncing what he called "creeping police state powers."

Senator Gruening, Democrat of Alaska, set off the discussion with a speech announcing

he was proposing creation of a congressional watchdog group on CIA operations.

"I too, have been disturbed for a long time about the unchecked power of the CIA," Senator Morse said.

He contended it is not safe in a democracy to have any agency clothed with vast powers over which Congress has no check. The CIA long has resisted congressional efforts to look into its operations.

Senator Morse said statements have been made that the Appropriations Committees of Congress do have some check on what CIA is doing, but he understands this is not correct. He said Congress is "ducking its responsibility" by not setting up a watchdog group to keep an eye on CIA. Senator Morse said it is "the ugly fact we have a creeping police state power developing within this democracy" and that Congress should act on it as it would a cancer.

Senator Gruening said CIA is described as a "finder of facts, rather than a maker of policy," but he expressed doubt about this. He said it has been "notably unsuccessful as a factfinder," particularly in Cuba.